

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 231637Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 495

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7172

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDA

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, CGEN, UR, US

SUBJ: VISAS FOR SOVIETS IN SAN FRANCISCO

REF: STATE 118642

1. DCM MAY 23 PRESENTED DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON SOVCONGEN STAFFING LEVELS AS STATED REFTEL TO KOMPLEKTOV OF USA DIVISION. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, KOMPLEKTOV SAID HE REGRETTEDE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION AS DETRIMENTAL TO, AND INCONSISTENT WITH, IMPROVED RELATIONS. HE RAN THROUGH USUAL ARGUMENTS THAT EXPANDED RELATIONS REQUIRES INCREASED STAFFING, U.S. HIRES LARGE NUMBERS OF SOVIET EMPLOYEES, AND THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHAT SIZE STAFF IT REQUIRES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT AMCONGEN LENINGRAD RECEIVES HELP FROM NUMEROUS TDY VISITORS, NOT FROM MOSCOW ALONE BUT THIRD COUNTRIES AS WELL. HE ASSERTED THAT, BECAUSE OF DISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON, SOVIET TDY TRAVEL TO SAN FRANCISCO MUCH LIGHTER AND THEREFORE LARGER PERMANENT STAFF JUSTIFIED. CONCLUDING, HE OBSERVED THAT SOVIET POLICY TOWARD U.S. TDY TRAVEL TO LENINGRAD WOULD BE REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF U.S. POLICY.

2. DCM REPLIED THAT WE CONSIDER OUR POLICY BOTH FAIR AND FULLY CONSISTENT WITH IMPROVING AND EXPANDING RELATIONS, SINCE THE LATTER WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE A
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BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES ON BOTH SIDES. IN

REGARD TO KOMPLEKTOV'S THREAT TO INTERFERE WITH TDY TRAVEL, DCM EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WOULD, UPON REFLECTION, UNDERSTAND THAT RESTRICTIONS ON TDY TRAVEL COULD REDOUND AS MUCH TO SOVIET DISADVANTAGE AS OUR OWN AND WOULD BE HIGHLY UNWISE.

3. COMMENT: CONTRARY TO HIS PRACTICE IN PAST EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT, KOMPLEKTOV MADE NO MENTION OF LOCAL PERSONNEL AT CONGEN LENINGRAD. GIVEN IMPLIED THREAT TO PLACE SOME LIMITATION ON TDY TRAVEL TO LENINGRAD, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT TO EXPRESS TO SOVIET EMBASSY ITS SURPRISE AT THIS TACK AND MAKE GENTLE REMINDER OF THE HEAVY VOLUME OF SOVIET OFFICIAL TRAVEL BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK WHICH PROCEEDS UNHINDERED.
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